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Michigan Technical Excellence Program (M-TEP)

The Michigan Technical Excellence Program (M-TEP), established by Governor John Engler on May 3, 2000, by executive order, is an industry-led skill credentialing and quality management initiative for Michigan's technical education system.

Michigan faces a critical shortage of skilled workers in the high-demand, high-wage occupations necessary to sustain and expand our economy. A world-class technical education system that helps to retain and attract skilled workers requires the involvement of business and industry to ensure high-quality technical preparation programs in Michigan and to establish a credentialing system responsive to the needs of employers.

Michigan Council on Technical Excellence

Through the same executive order, the Michigan Council on Technical Excellence was established to determine the steps necessary to implement the Michigan Technical Excellence Program. The council consists of nine members, including the Lieutenant Governor, the director of the Michigan Department of Career Development (MDCD), and seven members appointed by the Governor representing business, labor, and education. The council is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Work with voluntary partnerships formed from business, labor, and education to identify the common knowledge and technical skills required to be a successful worker in major occupational areas within broad industry sectors. These skills will provide the basis for portable credentials which will indicate that secondary, postsecondary, and adult learners have achieved specific competencies and can apply those competencies to particular industries and occupations.
- Establish the Michigan Technical Excellence Program to certify existing and emerging secondary and postsecondary technical education programs for consistent quality throughout the state. Private technical training programs may also seek certification.
- Involve the Michigan Virtual University to support the Michigan Technical Excellence Program.
- Work with the Council of Great Lakes Governors to establish portable credentials across the region as well as a skill standards database to improve information access and dissemination.
- Establish a working relationship with the National Skills Standards Board in developing strategies consistent with the responsibilities of the council.

For more information on the Michigan Technical Excellence Program and the Michigan Council on Technical Education, see the MD CD Web site at www.MDCD.org or call toll-free 1-866-MY-GOALS (voice/TTY).